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UNIDO CONTRIBUTION TO THE SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

Reports on the UNIDO contribution to the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, including implementation of decision IDB.16/Dec.17

Report by the Director-General

Introduction

1. In its decision IDB.12/Dec.7, the Industrial Development Board requested the Director-General, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/112, to continue incorporating into the UNIDO work programme the mandates and activities contained in the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and urged him to cooperate with other United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), on matters related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The present document reports on the implementation of that decision and other aspects of the UNIDO contribution to the System-Wide Plan since the issuance of the last report on the subject (IDB.16/14).

I. UNIDO'S RESPONSE

2. Continuing its collaboration with UNDCP, UNIDO participated in the fourth session of the Administration Committee on Coordination Sub-Committee on Drug Abuse Control, held in Vienna from 4 to 5 September 1996. It was agreed to incorporate agro-industries into the theme of alternative development in zones of illicit cultivation of crops from which narcotics are produced. Collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other partners of civil society, focusing mainly on demand reduction, was discussed, pointing out effective modalities for such collaboration in supply reduction projects, particularly those involving development of agro-industries in rural areas.

II. CURRENT OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

3. Efforts have been made to seek the cooperation of developing countries in financing several project proposals that were presented on behalf of the Government of Bolivia at a donors' conference at La Paz in 1995, as well as a project in the Dir District of Pakistan, which has been proposed by the Government of that country. However, for these and other projects being promoted in compliance with the objectives of the System-Wide Action Plan, further funding would be required.

4. An alternative development project concept based on the findings and recommendations of activities carried out in Peru covering crop substitution for coca has been submitted to the Peruvian authorities for comment and further discussion. A preparatory assistance concept was prepared for Afghanistan, which includes agro-industrial activities within the context of the poppy crop reduction project currently under elaboration by UNDCP.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

5. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present report.

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